

YMCA Summer Camp: Splash Into Summer



2019 PARENT INFORMATION

Thank you for registering your child for Marshall Area YMCA's Summer Camp! Welcome to our Summer Camp Program: Splash Into Summer! Our staff is looking forward to serving you and your child this summer. We hope his/her experience is rewarding and fun. The following is important information that you will need to know in order to best prepare your child for their camp experience.

REGISTRATION & FEE PAYMENT: At this point, you should have already completed our registration paperwork. The information form needs to be completed and returned before your child will be allowed to attend camp. This can be done online or on a paper copy. Thank you for taking the time to do this thoroughly. Please remember the balance for each week is due the Monday (one week) prior to each Camp week starting. If your account is not paid in full, your child will not be able to attend camp until it is paid.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Based on available resources, the YMCA provides financial assistance for all summer camps to youth who can benefit and demonstrate financial need. Financial Assistance applications are available at the YMCA. If you would like to apply, please complete the application at least one month prior to the start of camp. The YMCA also accepts child care assistance payments through Lyon, Lincoln, and Murray County Human Services. If you are interested in utilizing child care assistance, please email the Director of Community Programs to set up your registration at rpaulsen@marshallareaymca.org.

CREDITS & REFUNDS: Once a week of camp begins, we will not give credits or refunds for that session.

HOURS & DAYS OF OPERATION: Camp operates Monday- Friday, unless otherwise noted, from 7:30am-6:00pm. Campers may choose the full week option or the up to 3 days option. Camp will start and end each day at the Marshall Area YMCA. Camp may be off site anywhere between the times of 8:00am-5:00pm. If you are arriving later than 8am or picking up earlier than 5pm, please call the YMCA in advance to find out where Camp is located. Camp is only staffed until 6:00pm so it is very important that your child is picked up by that time.

JUNE 3RD & HOLIDAYS: Due to the winter weather make up days, we will not be holding camp on June 3rd as it is now a school day. The fee for that week will be prorated for full week campers. If you need child care after school on the 3rd, we will be offering after school program that day. Camp will not be in session on the 4th of July. This week will also have a prorated fee for a full week option only.

SIGNING IN & OUT: A person listed on your child's registration form must sign campers in and out each day. YOU (or an authorized person) MUST SIGN YOUR CHILD INTO & OUT OF CAMP. It is unacceptable to drop your camper(s) off at the YMCA doors and have them walk through the YMCA to camp's location on their own. Counselors also need parent interaction to pass along important information. Signing into camp is done by greeting the "clipboard counselor" that corresponds with the camp your child is enrolled in. This ensures we acknowledge your child has checked into/out of camp. To know which counselor to speak with, the clipboards are color coordinated:

Red clipboard= Discovery Camp, Blue Clipboard= Camp Spirit, Black Clipboard= Camp LIT.

ILLNESSES/ABSENCES: Please keep ill campers at home for their own sake and that of the others. If your child is registered for camp but cannot attend, please call the YMCA and let us know as early as possible on the day of his/her absence. **The YMCA phone number is 507-532-9622.** If your child becomes ill during camp, the staff will provide care and comfort and you will be notified so you may come and pick up your son/daughter. If we cannot contact you directly, attempts will be made to contact you through the people you listed as a contact in an emergency. Also, if your child is arriving late or leaving early, please let us know in advance, so that we can best accommodate him/her. **If Camp is taking a field trip we will not be able to accommodate late arrivals or early departures.** We do not give credits or refunds for individual days of camp missed. If your child becomes suddenly ill or injured and must miss an entire week of camp, please notify the Director of Community Programs immediately.

SAFETY: Safety is our first priority. Children are taught respect for nature and others and the proper use and care of equipment. There will always be a staff person on site who is trained in CPR & First Aid. Staff are also extensively trained in additional safety procedures involving travel, weather, swimming, and medication. Swimming activities only occur where a lifeguard is on duty.

INJURIES: Campers are well cared for and properly supervised at all times; nevertheless, an injury may occur. Camp counselors are trained in adult, child, and infant CPR as well as first aid procedures. Staff will usually treat minor scrapes and bruises, if any occur, and notify parents/guardians at the end of the day. If your camper is seriously injured while at camp, the Director of Community Programs, or designated staff person, will take whatever steps may be necessary to obtain emergency medical care. These steps may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact the parent/guardian; Parents/guardians are cautioned to keep the YMCA informed about changes to telephone numbers and other contact information.
- Attempts to contact you through the people listed to contact in an emergency;
If we cannot contact you we will do any or all of the following:
 - Call an ambulance or paramedic
 - Have the camper taken to Avera Marshall Medical Center in the company of a staff member.

MEDICATION: If your child needs to take medication (over the counter or prescription), please bring the amount needed with written directions and give to Director of Community Programs. Please do not send any more medication than is needed for one week. All medications are kept locked up until needed, with the exception of inhalers and epipens. If your child will need medication administered, a medication form will need to be filled out. This can be obtained at the front desk. If possible, we ask that you administer any necessary medication before or after camp.

WATER: Getting enough water is vital during strenuous activity, especially during hot summer months. We will give your child drinking breaks throughout camp. You can help keep your camper hydrated by sending along a water bottle full of water. Please put your camper's name on the bottle.

ATTIRE: All campers should be prepared for a full day of outdoor activities. Campers should wear appropriate clothing for these activities. We recommend light colored, loose fitting clothing; light-weight pants or shorts, t-shirts and sneakers. Sandals and flip-flops may be worn but shoes must be brought **daily!** Campers need to bring swimwear and a towel on designated swim days. Socks are required for play on the kid's gym mats.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP: Water bottle, appropriate outdoor clothing, tennis shoes, swim attire & towel on swim days, socks for kid's gym, and a change of clothes in a backpack if you wish. Please no toys or electronics.

CAMP T-SHIRT: All campers will receive a free camp T-shirt. We ask that your camper wears this t-shirt when we go on field trips. This provides us with an extra safety precaution as it helps easily identify our campers from afar.

FIELD TRIPS: On days we attend field trips we may ask campers to arrive by a certain time, this is very important to ensure we leave on time and make the most of our time away. Camp will never leave for a trip prior to 8 am. Field trips are an all-camp activity and we are not able to accommodate any campers who may choose not to attend a field trip as all counselors will be attending the trip. During field trips we take extra precautions including extra staff to create smaller group sizes, the buddy system, specific field trip rules, & dress code to help with identification. Campers are never allowed to wander on their own without supervision.

SWIMMING: Campers will be swimming at the Marshall Area YMCA on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Director of Community Programs will inform parents in advance if we are swimming on non-designated swim days. As this is an all-camp activity we encourage everyone to participate. If your child has a medical condition that keeps him/her from swimming, please send written notice to the Director of Community Programs. Campers not swimming will accompany camp to the pool and do a quiet activity on the pool deck with a counselor. Please send a swimsuit and towel with your camper on these days. Make sure all clothing and personal articles are labeled with your camper's name. Our camp counselors are aware of the additional safety concerns when taking campers swimming so all campers will be Swim Tested by certified YMCA lifeguards if they wish to go down the slide or go in the Lap Pool, if they cannot complete the test, we will only let them in the Family Fun Pool. In addition to the lifeguards, the camp counselors will station themselves around the pool. We also use a colored wristband system which marks each swimmer's abilities making where they are allowed to swim clear to staff at a glance.

SWIM LESSONS: Camp staff will bring campers registered in swim lessons to and from their lessons during the day during July 8 -19th only (camp weeks 6 & 7). If your camper will be needing this service please notify the camp staff at drop off that day. Please note that swim lessons require a separate registration.

SUNSCREEN & INSECT REPELLANT: For your camper's safety and protection, we apply spray bug repellent and sunscreen (SPF 30+) each day. The bug repellent and sunscreen will be supplied by the YMCA and all forms of it will be spray-on. Camp counselors will supervise the application and remind campers to apply it throughout the day. In an effort to reduce overexposure, it is also suggested that campers wear hats or sun visors. If you have a specific preference for the type of bug repellent or sunscreen used on your child, you may send your child with it to camp. NOTE: Counselors will not apply liquid sunscreen to children.

LUNCH/SNACK: Campers will receive lunch daily at the YMCA. Lunch will consist of a hot lunch prepared by Loaves and Fishes and served at the YMCA. There will be a small snack in the morning and afternoon provided by the YMCA as well. We are not able to accommodate for food allergies or special diets. You will have to bring your own lunch/snacks if needed. If you choose to bring your own lunch, we recommend using self-contained coolers for your child's lunch. Lunches will not be refrigerated or microwaved. Please provide your camper with nutritious food to give your child energy for the day.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: Each Marshall Area YMCA Summer Program will include components of Character Development, in which counselors will teach and model the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Some activities will be specifically focused on these traits and others will be woven into the camp's specific activities.

CAMP LOCATIONS: Camp will start and end each day at the Marshall Area YMCA. Camp will remain at the YMCA or walk to the library or nearby parks. We will also be taking field trips throughout the summer.

BASIC DAILY SCHEDULE: Campers will have a basic daily schedule to follow for the week. We will usually follow this outline, but at times we may be spontaneous and do something different, so please be patient with us if we move things around from time to time. A tentative schedule for the week will be available by the Friday before each week begins. Copies of this will be sent out in our weekly email every Friday.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Even though Camp is mainly at the YMCA, there will be times when we are off site. In the case of inclement weather while off-site, camp staff will follow all necessary safety precautions, depending upon the outdoor location for the day. In the instance that the weather would prevent camp from being held at our designated outdoor location, camp will be held indoors at the Marshall Area YMCA.

STAY CONNECTED: Each Friday an email will go out with information about the coming week. Please ensure your email information is up to date. If you are not receiving the emails please let Racquel know. Like our Facebook page to see pictures of our fun adventures. Search: Marshall Area YMCA Youth Development

CALLING CAMP: If you need to get a message to your child or the Director of Community Programs during the camp day, please call the YMCA at **507-532-9622**. We will forward your message!!

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, contact Racquel Paulsen- Director of Community Programs.

Email: rpaulsen@marshallareaymca.org

Phone: **507.532.9622**